GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:333
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Ground Water Pollution
Anwar Shri Tariq

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether indiscriminate use of chemicals and fertilizers during the last three years is a major cause of rapidly increasing ground water pollution in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the pollution of the ground water during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a)& (b) No such study has been carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to assess the impact of indiscriminate use of chemicals and fertilizers in contamination of ground water. However, the CPCB is monitoring the water quality of both surface and ground water under National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP) throughout the country. The water quality is assessed for various physico-chemical characteristics and bacteriological, heavy metals, pesticide, Arsenic and Fluoride concentrations.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check the pollution of the ground water include formulation and notification of standards for effluents from industries, operations or processes; enforcing of these standards by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCC) through consent mechanism and regular monitoring; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality; installation of Online Effluent Monitoring System to check the discharge of effluent directly into water bodies; preparation of action plan for sewage management and restoration of water quality in aquatic resources by State Governments; initiating in-situ bioremediation for treatment of flowing sewage/ effluent; promotion of cleaner production processes; installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units; issuance of directions for implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge; formulation of stricter regulations/ rules; issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,etc.
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